

COLOUR CHANGE IN THE GENUS *ADSCITA*. — During the first week in June, whilst busy recording the localities of 'Foresters' in Sussex I collected a number of specimens of *Adscita globulariae* Hbn. and *A. geryon* Hbn., both from the same site on the 5th June 1982. These were subsequently taken home to be photographed in a pseudo-natural pose on some potted *Helianthemum*. As with other active day-flying moths I chilled the adults for five minutes in the freezer prior to arranging my 'set'. However, when removed from the freezer they had changed from iridescent green to a deep maroon colour. As the moths revived and returned to normal temperature in the sun they changed back to green. I assume that the colour change brought about by a temperature drop is connected with the structural colouration of the scales. I have never heard of this happening before in any British species, or read of this phenomenon in the literature. One wonders whether evening temperatures can bring about a colour change in a state of nature, and if so whether the colour change has a selective advantage for the moths in the early morning before they become active enough to evade their avian predators. M. HADLEY, c/o Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

THE GRECIAN COPPER: *HEODES OTTOMANUS* L'ÉVÈRE AND *CLEOPATRA*: *GONEPTERYX CLEOPATRA* L. IN YUGOSLAVIA. — On 10th April 1982 in the meadow on the island of Lokrum near Dubrovnik I saw a freshly emerged *Heodes ottomanus*. Close-up photographs were taken of uppersides and undersides of wings which confirm identification. Also on the same day at the highest point of the island I definitely saw one *Gonepteryx cleopatra* ♂, then on two later occasions during our holiday I saw further lone ♂ specimens on the nearby Babin Kuk peninsular. These observations may be of interest because the distribution maps in Higgins and Riley, *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe* do not show these species as occurring in the Dubrovnik area of Yugoslavia. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Poolbrook, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 3JU. [It is a rare event to see information about butterflies from Dubrovnik on the Adriatic coast, and Mr. Green's notes are most interesting. Vagrant specimens of *Gonepteryx cleopatra* L. occur probably throughout the Mediterranean area, but breeding colonies are less common. The record of *Heodes ottomanus* Lef. near Dubrovnik, confirms that of Hans Epstein a few years ago, who reported finding an extensive colony a little south of the town. This interesting species is restricted to the eastern Mediterranean, where it seems the colonies are often widely separated. The distribution is not well understood and more information is needed, especially from western Turkey. The entire area, that I used to know as Montenegro, is relatively unexplored, with Albania and its splendid mountains so near but unapproachable at present. I should add that corrected distribution maps for *G. cleopatra* and for *H. ottomanus* were among the many additions and alterations needed for the last (1980) revised edition of the *Field Guide*. — Dr. L. G. HIGGINS.]